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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/030,692	01/14 2002	Hans Rudolf Muller	EPROV 17	8615

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MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P.C.
2200 CLARENDON BLVD.
SUITE 1400
ARLINGTON, VA 22201

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

BERCH, MARK L

[REDACTED] ART UNIT

[REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

1624

DATE MAILED: 02/14/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 10/030,692 Examiner Mark L. Berch	Applicant(s) MULLER ET AL.
	Art Unit 1624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 January 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

4) Claim(s) 1-19 and 29-32 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 30 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-13, 18, 29, 31 and 32 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 14-17 and 19 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Disposition of Claims

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Applicants are reminded that the marked up copy of the amendments must reflect all amendments, not just some. For example, amendments to claims 15-18 were not indicated on the marked up copy.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-13, 18, 29, 31-32 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

1. The choice of radicals for R1 and R2 in claim 6 is duplicative. The second choice is any radical attached via a C, which completely encompasses the first choice. Thus, it is unclear what the point of the first choice is.
2. The “heteroatoms” at third from last line of claim 6 lacks antecedent basis. It is unclear what the “with heteroatoms” now refers to, since the antecedent for this has been removed.
3. The variable definitions in claim 6 are unclear. The definition begins by saying that R1 or R2 “is H”, but then says that they both could be the assorted radicals. But if both are those radicals, then neither R1 nor R2 is H. The definition must be clarified.
4. “Preferably” is improper alternative language (*In re Kingston*, 65 USPQ 371). It remains in claim 18, where it clearly renders the claim vague, since “alkyl and preferably H” makes no sense.

5. The new text added to claim 1 is duplicative. The third choice ("...two tertiary phosphine groups...") is already completely embraced by the broader first choice.
6. The term in claim 32 is unclear. What exactly is this? An imine is normally a compound with C=N structural feature, but it is not clear where the P would be involved. Is it attached to the C? To the N? Applicants need to draw out what this looks like.
7. Claim 29's "and wherein the alcoholic reaction medium" lacks antecedent basis. There is previous mention of a polar reaction medium, not an alcoholic reaction medium. Likewise claim 31.
8. The phrase "phosphine for an alcoholic reaction medium" does not make sense.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The new claim language expands the second radical. For example, while it is unclear exactly what the original "heterohydrocarbon" meant, it presumably did not include e.g. CN or CF₃, since these have no H, and thus were not any kind of hydrocarbon. But now these are embraced, and so the material has been expanded beyond what was originally described.

Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The examiner cannot locate this language in the specification.

Claims 14-17, 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Information Disclosure Statement

The references cited in the Search Report of the PCT application have been considered, but will not be listed on any patent resulting from this application because they were not provided on a separate list in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1). In order to have the references printed on such resulting patent, a separate listing, preferably on a PTO-1449 form, must be filed within the set period for reply to this Office action.

Applicants refer to a communication of 4/10/02, but none was received from the PTO.

Applicants refer to a 1449 attached to the recent response, but none was actually attached.

Specification

Applicants are requested to try to remove the remaining German still present in the specification, e.g. at page 43, line 8, page 13, line 19. The citation at page 34, lines 18-19 needs to be removed unless it was published by the filing date.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark L. Berch whose telephone number is 703-308-4718. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:15 - 3:45.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mukund Shah can be reached on 308-4716. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4556 for regular communications and 703-308-4556 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 708-308-1235.

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Mark L. Berch
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1624

February 11, 2003